

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4804

October 31, 2018

COMMITTEES  
APPROPRIATIONS  
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
INTELLIGENCE  
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. Cosmo Servidio  
Regional Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Region III  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

Dear Regional Administrator Servidio,

I want to thank you for your October 10<sup>th</sup> response to my letter regarding the planned Rockwool facility in Ranson, West Virginia. I appreciate the agency's work with respect to the facility's NAAQS permit as well as the EPA's attendance at various related meetings. While I understand the NAAQS program is a delegated Clean Air Act (CAA) permitting program and the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) is the primary agency, I also believe the EPA can provide additional valuable resource to families of Ranson and its surrounding communities.

I continue to hear from numerous constituents who are concerned with the potential impacts of the facility including negative environmental and economic impacts. I reiterate that the concerns I am hearing are serious, genuine and worthy of thoughtful engagement from all stakeholders, particularly due to the close proximity of the Rockwool facility to four schools.

In a September 4, 2018, letter to me, Rockwool stated that the company remains "convinced there is an exceptionally robust body of scientific research and analysis" demonstrating the facility will have little consequence. Yet, earlier this month, Rockwool was cited for six violations of its stormwater discharge permit when a sinkhole developed. Rockwool did not report that sinkhole. While Rockwool has since responded, I believe this incident is reflective of lingering questions around the development of this facility. I believe additional due diligence must be done in order to ensure that public health and the environment are protected.

The diligent team at the WVDEP works tirelessly to ensure the safety and health of West Virginia's public and environment, but resources and staffing are constrained. I believe that as our nation's leading environmental agency dedicated to the protection of human health, the EPA can offer more in supporting the communities that will be potentially affected by this facility. I strongly urge you to:

- Direct staff from the Office of Children's Health Protection (OCHP) to meet with the Jefferson County Board of Education in an effort to offer expert consultation as it pursues an independent environmental health assessment of the Rockwool facility on children. The Jefferson County Board of Education is seeking to establish a Health and Human Risk Assessment (HHRA) Selection Committee.
- Work with the WVDEP Division of Water and Waste Management to ensure Rockwool has conducted a comprehensive review of the unique karst at the intended

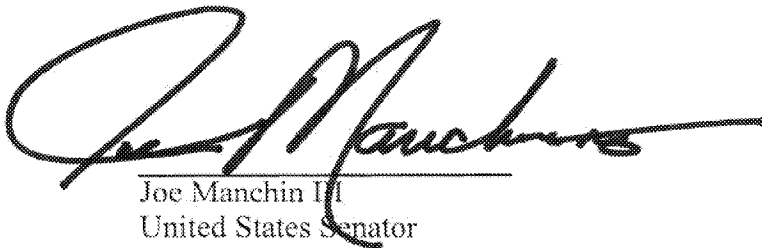
- site in order to ensure the facility does not increase the risk of sinkholes or contamination to groundwater.
- Work with the WVDEP to address questions regarding the effect of increased ozone concentrations on elements of the local economy, such as soybean production.

On August 28, I wrote to Trent Ogilvie, President of Rockwool, asking for additional information on behalf of my constituents. On September 18, 2018, I wrote to Acting Administrator Wheeler asking for additional resources from the EPA in support of the constituents of Jefferson County. I have also spoken with Mr. Ogilvie and Mayor Pierson of the City of Ranson, as well as representatives from the Jefferson County Board of Education, the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, the Jefferson County Development Authority, and many concerned constituents. In addition to numerous in-state meetings and conversations, in late October, my staff held a comprehensive meeting in my Washington office with concerned community leaders including a local physician and parents.

While these conversations are vital, I believe it is important that all parties sit down in a face to face meeting in order to address ongoing concerns, particularly because I continue to hear from parents expressing genuine fear for their children's health and well-being. Therefore, I also ask that you designate a member of your staff to attend an upcoming meeting which I will convene to ensure a constructive fact-based dialogue amongst representatives of all interested stakeholders.

Thank you for your continued attention and valuable expertise regarding this matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator

Cc: Austin Caperton, Secretary, WVDEP  
Acting Administrator Wheeler, EPA